
A COMPREHENSIVE REFERENCE OF ENGLISH PHRASAL VERBS

*Classified and Defined for Advanced Learners,
Writers, and Readers of English*

Seven Classified Sections · Strict Alphabetical Order · Oxford-Style Definitions
Compiled with reference to the Oxford Dictionary of Phrasal Verbs and the Oxford Advanced
Learner's Dictionary

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Section I

INTRANSITIVE PHRASAL VERBS

These phrasal verbs take no direct object in the meaning given.

B

- back away**—Retreat; withdraw from someone or something
- back down**—Yield; abandon a position under pressure
- back off**—Withdraw; move away
- back out**—Withdraw from a commitment or agreement
- bear up**—Endure difficulty with courage
- blow over**—Pass without serious consequences
- blow up**—(1)Explode(2)Erupt in anger(3)Develop into a crisis
- boil over**—Overflow with heat; become uncontrollably angry
- bounce back**—Recover quickly after a setback
- bow out**—Withdraw gracefully; retire
- branch out**—Expand one's activities into new areas
- break away**—(1)Escape; flee(2)Secede from a group
- break down**—(1)Collapse; fail mechanically(2)Lose emotional control(3)Fail to progress, as of negotiations
- break in**—(1)Enter by force(2)Interrupt a conversation
- break off**—Stop suddenly; come to an abrupt end
- break out**—(1)Erupt; begin suddenly(2)Escape from confinement
- break through**—Force a passage; achieve a decisive new result
- break up**—(1)Disintegrate; come to pieces(2)Come to an end(3)Disperse
- brighten up**—(1)Become more cheerful(2)Improve in weather
- buck up**—(1)Hurry(2)Adopt a more positive attitude
- buckle down**—Apply oneself seriously to a task
- buckle under**—Yield to pressure; submit
- build up**—(1)Accumulate gradually(2)Increase in intensity
- burn out**—Become physically or mentally exhausted through overwork
- burst in**—Enter suddenly and without warning
- burst into**—Begin suddenly, as into tears, flames, or laughter

- burst out**—(1)Exclaim suddenly(2)Break out in tears or laughter

C

- calm down**—Become tranquil; cease to be agitated
- carry on**—(1)Continue; persist(2)Conduct oneself boisterously
- catch on**—(1)Become popular(2)Begin to understand
- cave in**—(1)Collapse suddenly(2)Yield to pressure; submit
- chip away**—Erode gradually; make slow but steady progress
- climb down**—Abandon a position previously held; retract an assertion
- close down**—Cease operations permanently
- close in**—(1)Approach menacingly; surround(2)Become shorter, as of evenings
- close up**—(1)Shut completely; heal(2)Stop talking
- come about**—Happen; occur
- come along**—(1)Arrive; appear(2)Make progress; improve
- come apart**—Disintegrate; come to pieces
- come around**—(1)Regain consciousness(2)Change one's opinion(3)Recur periodically
- come at**—Attack; approach in a particular way
- come back**—Return
- come down**—(1)Decrease; fall(2)Be handed down by tradition
- come forward**—Volunteer; present oneself
- come in**—(1)Enter(2)Arrive; be received(3)Become fashionable
- come off**—(1)Succeed; be effective(2)Become detached
- come on**—(1)Begin; start, as of rain or illness(2)Make progress
- come out**—(1)Emerge; appear(2)Be published or released(3)Become known
- come over**—(1)Visit(2)Affect suddenly(3)Change sides
- come round**—(1)Regain consciousness(2)Change one's opinion(3)Recur
- come through**—(1)Survive a difficult experience(2)Arrive as expected
- come to**—(1)Regain consciousness(2)Amount to a total
- come up**—(1)Arise; be mentioned(2)Approach; draw near(3)Occur unexpectedly
- cool down**—Become less hot; become calmer
- cool off**—Become less angry; become less enthusiastic

crack down—Impose stricter controls; suppress with greater severity
creep in—Enter or appear gradually
creep up—Increase or approach gradually and imperceptibly
crop up—Appear or arise unexpectedly
cry off—Withdraw from an agreement or engagement
cry out—Exclaim; call out loudly
curl up—Coil into a ball; settle comfortably

D

dawn on—Become clear to; be suddenly realised by
die away—Fade gradually and disappear
die down—Subside; become less intense
die off—Die one after another; gradually cease to exist
die out—Become extinct; cease to exist entirely
double back—Reverse direction; return the way one came
double up—(1)Fold in two; share accommodation(2)Bend over suddenly, as from pain
drag on—Continue at tedious and excessive length
drain away—Disappear gradually; ebb away
draw back—Retreat; pull back
draw in—Become shorter, as of the evenings
drift apart—Become gradually estranged
drift off—Fall asleep
drop by—Visit briefly and informally
drop in—Visit informally without prior notice
drop off—(1)Fall asleep(2)Decrease gradually
drop out—(1)Withdraw from an activity or course of study(2)Abandon conventional society
dry out—(1)Remove moisture; become dry(2)Undergo treatment for alcoholism
dry up—(1)Cease talking; fall silent(2)Dry completely(3)Cease to be available

E

ease off—Diminish in intensity; become less severe
ease up—Reduce pressure; become less demanding
ebb away—Gradually become weaker and disappear
end up—(1)Find oneself eventually in a place or state(2)Result ultimately

F

fade away—Disappear gradually; become weaker

fade in—Appear gradually; become audible or visible
fade out—Disappear gradually; become less audible or visible
fall apart—(1)Disintegrate; come to pieces(2)Break down emotionally
fall away—(1)Decline gradually(2)Withdraw; desert
fall back—Retreat; recede
fall behind—(1)Fail to keep pace(2)Become in arrears
fall in—(1)Collapse inward(2)Assemble in formation
fall off—(1)Decrease; decline(2)Become detached
fall out—(1)Quarrel; become estranged(2)Result; occur(3)Come loose
fall over—Topple; collapse
fall through—Fail to be realised; come to nothing
fall to—(1)Begin; set to work(2)Become the responsibility of someone
fan out—Spread out in different directions
flare up—(1)Erupt suddenly in flame or violence(2)Become suddenly angry
fold up—Collapse; close down completely
follow through—Complete an action to its logical conclusion
follow up—Pursue a matter to a further stage
freeze over—Become covered with a layer of ice

G

gang up—Join together against someone
give in—(1)Yield; admit defeat(2)Consent after initial resistance
give out—(1)Be exhausted; run out(2)Cease to function
give up—(1)Cease all effort; admit defeat(2)Stop doing something
give way—(1)Collapse; yield under pressure(2)Allow to pass(3)Be replaced by
gloss over—Treat superficially; conceal or minimise a fault
go about—(1)Circulate; be present in a community(2)Set about a task
go ahead—Proceed; take place as planned
go along—(1)Proceed; make progress(2)Agree; cooperate
go around—(1)Be sufficient for all present(2)Circulate; spread
go away—Depart; leave
go back—(1)Return(2)Extend in time to the past
go by—(1)Pass without stopping(2)Be guided by a rule or standard

go down—(1)Decrease; fall(2)Be received or regarded
go off—(1)Explode; discharge(2)Deteriorate; go bad(3) Depart; leave
go on—(1)Continue; persist(2)Happen; take place
go out—(1)Be extinguished(2)Socialise; go on a date(3) Go on strike
go over—(1)Be received; be regarded(2)Review; examine
go through—(1)Endure; experience(2)Be completed or approved
go under—(1)Sink(2)Fail; become insolvent
go up—(1)Increase(2)Be constructed; be built
grind down—Oppress continuously; suppress through persistent pressure
grind on—Continue tediously; proceed relentlessly
grow apart—Become gradually estranged
grow into—Develop gradually into; become
grow on—Become more liked or appreciated over time
grow out of—(1)Outgrow(2)Originate or develop from
grow up—(1)Mature; reach adulthood(2)Come into existence and develop

H

hang about—Wait idly; loiter
hang around—Wait idly; loiter; associate regularly with
hang on—(1)Wait; pause(2)Grip tightly; persist
hang over—(1)Loom over; threaten(2)Remain unresolved
hang up—End a telephone call; terminate a conversation
hold back—Hesitate; restrain oneself
hold forth—Speak at length; discourse
hold on—(1)Wait; pause(2)Grip tightly; persist
hold out—(1)Endure; last(2)Resist; refuse to yield
hold up—(1)Remain without decline(2)Prove valid under scrutiny

J

join in—Participate; take part
join up—(1)Enlist in the armed forces(2)Connect; link together

K

keep on—Continue; persist
kick back—Recoil; relax; be slow to act
kick in—Take effect; become active; begin to work

L

lash out—Attack verbally or physically; hit out
latch on—Begin to understand; attach oneself to someone
level off—Become flat; stabilise
level out—Even out; cease to rise or fall
lie behind—Be the real reason for; underlie
lie down—Recline; take a horizontal position
lie in—Remain in bed later than usual
linger on—Persist; remain longer than expected
look ahead—Plan for the future; think ahead
look back—Recall the past; reflect
look in—Visit briefly
look on—(1)Watch without participating(2)Consider; regard
look out—Be careful; be watchful
look round—Explore; turn to look; inspect casually
look up—Improve; become more promising
loom up—Appear suddenly as a large or threatening shape
loosen up—Relax; become less tense or formal
lose out—(1)Fail to take advantage of an opportunity(2) Be unsuccessful

M

melt away—Disappear gradually; vanish quietly
mount up—Accumulate; increase in total
move along—(1)Proceed; advance(2)Disperse
move away—Depart; move to a different place
move back—Retreat; return to a previous position
move in—(1)Take up residence(2)Approach menacingly
move off—Depart
move on—(1)Proceed; advance(2)Change the subject(3) Leave a situation behind
move out—Vacate; depart

N

nod off—Fall asleep, especially unintentionally

O

own up—Confess; admit to doing something wrong

P

pan out—Develop; result; turn out
pass away—Die
pass on—(1)Die(2)Continue onward(3)Decline an offer
pass out—Faint; lose consciousness

pass over—(1)Be overlooked or bypassed(2)Die (euphemistically)
pay off—Be worthwhile; produce the desired results
peel off—Become detached; leave a group; remove a layer
peter out—Gradually diminish and cease
pile up—Accumulate; mount up
plod on—Persevere slowly and steadily
pop up—Appear suddenly and unexpectedly
press ahead—Continue determinedly despite difficulties
press on—Continue with a course of action
pull in—(1)Arrive at a station or stop(2)Stop a vehicle at the roadside
pull out—Withdraw; disengage
pull round—Recover from illness
pull through—Survive a serious difficulty or illness

R

rally round—Come together to offer support collectively
ring out—Sound loudly and clearly
rise up—(1)Ascend(2)Rebel against authority
roll in—Arrive in abundance; arrive casually
roll on—Continue; approach in time
roll up—(1)Arrive(2)Accumulate
run away—Flee; escape
run on—Continue without a break or pause
run out—Be exhausted; expire

S

seize up—Become jammed and unable to move; come to a halt
set in—Begin and continue, especially of something unpleasant
set off—Depart; begin a journey
set out—(1)Begin a journey or undertaking(2)State or explain systematically
set to—Begin working or fighting vigorously
settle down—(1)Become calm and established(2)Establish oneself in a permanent way of life
settle in—Adapt comfortably to a new situation or environment
show off—Behave ostentatiously; display to advantage
show up—(1)Appear; arrive(2)Be conspicuous
sit back—(1)Relax(2)Refrain from taking action
sit down—(1)Take a seat(2)Begin a formal discussion

sit in—Attend as an observer; participate in a sit-in protest
sit out—Endure to the end; not participate
sit through—Remain to the end of something tedious
sit up—(1)Sit erect(2)Stay awake late
slope off—Leave quietly to avoid duty or responsibility
slow down—Decelerate; reduce pace
slow up—Reduce speed
soldier on—Continue resolutely despite difficulties
speed up—Accelerate; move or happen faster
spring from—Originate from; arise out of
spring up—Appear suddenly and unexpectedly
stand aside—(1)Move aside(2)Refrain from involvement
stand back—(1)Retreat to a distance(2)Consider objectively
stand by—(1)Be ready for action(2)Refrain from acting(3)Remain loyal
stand down—(1)Resign; retire from a position(2)Stand aside
stand out—(1)Be conspicuous; be clearly superior(2)Resist; hold out
stand up—(1)Rise to a standing position(2)Remain valid; be well founded
start off—Begin
start out—(1)Begin; set out(2)Intend or plan originally
start up—(1)Begin operations; arise(2)Come into being
stay away—Remain absent
stay behind—Remain after others leave
stay in—Remain indoors; not go out
stay on—Remain longer than expected
stay out—Remain away from home; avoid
stay up—Remain awake beyond the usual hour
step aside—(1)Move aside(2)Resign; withdraw from a position
step back—(1)Retreat(2)Reconsider; take a less active role
step down—(1)Resign; retire from a position(2)Decrease
step forward—Volunteer; come forward
step in—Intervene
step up—(1)Increase; intensify(2)Come forward; advance
stick around—Remain; wait nearby
stick out—(1)Protrude(2)Be conspicuous(3)Endure; persist
swell up—Become enlarged; expand

T

tail off—Gradually diminish or decline

take off—(1)Depart; leave the ground(2)Become popular or successful

tick away—Pass steadily, as of time

tick over—(1)Run smoothly at a basic level(2)Continue to function adequately

tip over—Overturn; become unstable and fall

trail away—Fade into silence

trail off—Diminish; fade away, especially of a voice

tumble down—Collapse; fall in ruins

tumble over—Fall over; topple

turn around—(1)Reverse direction(2)Improve after a difficult period

turn out—(1)Prove to be; result(2)Appear; attend

W

warm up—(1)Become warmer(2)Prepare physically for exercise(3)Become more animated

wash over—Affect suddenly; flow over without lasting effect

wear off—Diminish gradually; have decreasing effect

wind down—(1)Gradually reduce(2)Relax; become less active

wind up—(1)End; conclude(2)Find oneself eventually in a situation

wither away—Gradually become less or weaker and disappear

work out—(1)Exercise; train(2)Result; develop satisfactorily(3)Be resolved

Section II

SPLITTABLE MONO-OBJECT PHRASAL VERBS

Transitive phrasal verbs whose object may appear between verb and particle or after it. With pronoun objects the particle must always follow.

B

- blow up**—(1)Inflate; cause to swell(2)Enlarge a photograph(3)Destroy by explosion
- boil down**—Reduce by boiling; summarise to essential facts
- bottle up**—Suppress feelings; contain or conceal
- bring about**—Cause to happen; produce
- bring back**—(1)Return; restore to a former state(2)Cause to remember; evoke
- bring down**—(1)Reduce; lower(2)Overthrow; cause to collapse
- bring forward**—(1)Propose; introduce for consideration(2)Advance the date or time of
- bring in**—(1)Introduce; initiate(2)Earn; yield
- bring off**—Accomplish successfully
- bring on**—(1)Cause; provoke(2)Encourage; foster
- bring out**—(1)Publish; release(2)Reveal; enhance
- bring round**—(1)Persuade; win over(2)Revive from unconsciousness
- bring up**—(1)Rear; raise a child(2)Raise a subject for discussion(3)Vomit
- brush aside**—Dismiss; treat as unimportant
- brush off**—Reject curtly; remove by brushing
- brush up**—Refresh or improve a skill or knowledge
- build in**—Incorporate as a permanent element
- build up**—(1)Accumulate; increase gradually(2)Strengthen; develop(3)Promote enthusiastically
- burn down**—Destroy by fire; reduce to ashes

C

- call forth**—Evoke; summon up a quality or response
- call in**—(1)Summon; request the presence of(2)Withdraw from circulation
- call off**—Cancel; abandon
- call out**—(1)Challenge; summon in an emergency(2)Name or shout aloud

- call up**—(1)Telephone(2)Summon for military service(3)Evoke; call to mind
- cancel out**—Neutralise; make ineffective; have an equal but opposite effect
- carry away**—(1)Remove; transport(2)Overwhelm with emotion
- carry forward**—Transfer a total to the next period; continue
- carry off**—(1)Carry away by force(2)Accomplish successfully
- carry out**—Execute; perform; complete
- carry through**—Accomplish; support someone through difficulty
- cast aside**—Discard; abandon; throw away
- cast out**—Expel; drive away
- chase up**—Pursue; accelerate progress on
- cheer up**—Make or cause to feel more cheerful
- chip in**—(1)Contribute money or effort(2)Interrupt a conversation
- choke back**—Suppress with effort; force down
- chop down**—Fell; cut down
- chop up**—Cut into pieces
- clean out**—(1)Empty thoroughly(2)Exhaust the money of
- clean up**—(1)Make tidy; remove dirt from(2)Gain a large profit
- clear away**—Remove; take away
- clear out**—(1)Empty; remove contents from(2)Tidy thoroughly
- clear up**—(1)Clarify; explain(2)Tidy and clean
- clock up**—Accumulate a total; notch up
- cobble together**—Assemble hastily from available materials
- conjure up**—Produce as if by magic; evoke a memory or image
- count down**—Count backwards towards zero
- count in**—Include; invite to participate
- count out**—(1)Exclude; not include(2)Pay out money in counted amounts
- cover up**—(1)Conceal; hide from view(2)Disguise the truth about
- cross off**—Delete from a list; remove by crossing through
- cross out**—Draw a line through; cancel by striking through
- cut back**—Reduce; curtail
- cut down**—(1)Fell; destroy(2)Reduce; limit; consume less of

cut off—(1)Sever; disconnect(2)Interrupt; stop suddenly
cut out—(1)Remove by cutting(2)Stop; cease
cut up—Divide into pieces; cut into sections

D

damp down—Reduce the intensity of; suppress gradually
dash off—Write or produce quickly; complete in a hurry
dig out—Unearth; find after searching; excavate
dig up—Excavate; discover; bring to light
divide up—Partition; share out between several parties
do away with—Abolish; put an end to
do up—(1)Fasten; secure(2)Renovate; redecorate
do without—Manage without; forgo
dole out—Distribute sparingly; give out in small amounts
double up—Fold in two; cause to share accommodation
drag out—Prolong unnecessarily; make last longer
drain off—Remove liquid from; draw off gradually
draw out—(1)Extract; prolong(2)Cause to speak more freely
draw up—(1)Prepare; draft a document(2)Bring to a stop
dream up—Invent; think of imaginatively
drink in—Absorb eagerly; take in with the senses
drive away—Repel; cause to leave
drive out—Expel; force out
drown out—Muffle; overcome with a louder sound
drum into—Instil by constant repetition
drum up—Generate; create; attract by effort

E

eat up—(1)Consume entirely(2)Use up entirely; exhaust
edit out—Remove in editing; excise
egg on—Encourage to do something wrong or unwise
empty out—Remove all contents from
even out—Make level, regular, or equal

F

ferret out—Discover by diligent searching
fill in—(1)Complete a form or document(2)Inform fully
(3)Substitute temporarily for
fill out—(1)Complete a form(2)Expand; become fuller
fill up—Make completely full
find out—Discover; ascertain
finish off—(1)Complete; bring to an end(2)Kill; destroy
fire up—Arouse enthusiasm; motivate; start

fish out—Retrieve from a container or water with effort
fit out—Equip; supply with what is necessary
fix up—(1)Repair; mend(2)Arrange; organise
flag up—Highlight; draw attention to
flush out—Force into the open; clean thoroughly with water
follow up—Pursue to a conclusion; supplement with further action
fork out—Pay reluctantly; hand over money
freshen up—Make look cleaner or neater; wash and tidy oneself

G

gather up—Collect; muster together
gear up—Prepare; organise in readiness
give away—(1)Reveal; betray inadvertently(2)Donate freely
give back—Return something to its owner
give out—(1)Distribute; issue(2)Announce; make public
give up—Renounce; relinquish; surrender

H

hammer out—Produce by effort; reach by hard negotiation
hand back—Return to the owner
hand down—(1)Pass on by tradition or inheritance(2)Deliver formally, as a verdict
hand in—Submit; deliver formally
hand on—Transmit; pass on
hand out—Distribute; issue
hand over—(1)Surrender; transfer control or possession
(2)Pass on physically
head off—(1)Intercept; prevent(2)Avert; forestall
hide away—Conceal; store in a secret place
hunt down—Pursue until caught; track to its location

I

iron out—Resolve; eliminate difficulties or inconsistencies

J

jazz up—Make more lively, interesting, or attractive
jot down—Write a quick note; record briefly

K

knock down—(1)Demolish; destroy(2)Reduce in price(3) Strike to the ground

knock off—(1)Stop work; cease(2)Reduce in price(3) Produce quickly

knock out—(1)Render unconscious(2)Eliminate from a competition(3)Impress greatly

L

lap up—Consume eagerly; accept uncritically with pleasure

lay aside—(1)Discard; abandon(2)Save for later

lay down—(1)Establish; formulate as a rule(2)Surrender; relinquish(3)Store for future

lay in—Stockpile; accumulate for future use

lay off—(1)Dismiss workers; make redundant(2)Stop; cease

lay on—(1)Provide; supply(2)Impose; inflict

lay out—(1)Arrange; display(2)Explain; present clearly (3)Spend money

lay up—(1)Store for future use(2)Confine to bed through illness

leave aside—Disregard; not take into consideration

leave behind—(1)Abandon; neglect to take(2)Outpace; surpass

leave out—Omit; fail to include

let down—(1)Disappoint; fail(2)Lower; reduce

let in—(1)Admit; allow to enter(2)Allow to share a secret

let off—(1)Release from punishment or duty(2)Fire; discharge

let out—(1)Release; allow to escape(2)Utter a sound(3) Make clothing larger

lift up—Raise; elevate

light up—(1)Illuminate; shed light on(2)Cause to become animated or bright

line up—Arrange in a line; organise; place in sequence

lock away—Secure; store safely under lock

lock in—Secure inside; confine

lock out—Prevent from entering

lock up—(1)Imprison; confine securely(2)Secure a building

look over—Inspect; examine briefly

M

make out—(1)Discern; manage to understand(2)Claim; pretend(3)Complete a document

make over—(1)Transfer ownership formally(2)Transform the appearance of

make up—(1)Invent; fabricate(2)Constitute; form the whole of(3)Reconcile after a quarrel(4)Apply cosmetics

map out—Plan in detail; devise carefully

mark down—(1)Reduce the price of(2)Note; record

mark off—(1)Separate with a boundary(2)Check off from a list

mark out—(1)Delineate; trace boundaries of(2) Distinguish; single out

mark up—(1)Increase the price of(2)Annotate with corrections

mess up—(1)Ruin; handle badly(2)Make dirty or untidy

mix up—(1)Confuse; fail to distinguish between(2) Combine; blend

mop up—(1)Clean; remove with a mop(2)Complete the remaining tasks

N

nail down—(1)Finalise; determine precisely(2)Secure firmly

narrow down—Reduce a list or range of options; limit the possibilities

note down—Record in writing; write a quick note

O

open out—(1)Unfold; expand(2)Develop; make more extensive

open up—(1)Unlock; open for access(2)Reveal; disclose (3)Begin speaking freely

P

pad out—Lengthen unnecessarily; add material to fill a gap

palm off—Pass off by deceit; get rid of something inferior

pension off—Retire on a pension; remove from active service

pep up—Invigorate; make more lively or spirited

phase in—Introduce gradually in stages

phase out—Discontinue gradually in stages

pick off—(1)Shoot selectively one by one(2)Remove by picking

pick out—(1)Choose; select(2)Recognise; distinguish

pick up—(1)Lift; collect(2)Learn informally(3)Arrest(4) Improve(5)Acquire

piece together—Discover the truth by putting separate facts together

pin down—(1)Define precisely(2)Force to commit to a decision(3)Immobilise

pin up—Affix to a wall or board

play back—Replay a recorded sound or image

play down—Minimise; understate the importance of

play out—(1)Enact; bring to a conclusion(2)Exhaust; deplete

play up—(1)Emphasise; exaggerate(2)Cause trouble or inconvenience

pluck up—Summon up courage

point out—Indicate; draw attention to

polish off—(1)Finish quickly and completely(2)Defeat decisively

polish up—Improve; refine; clean

print off—Produce by a printer; make a printed copy of

prop up—Support; reinforce; sustain artificially

pull apart—(1)Separate forcibly(2)Criticise severely

pull down—(1)Demolish(2)Cause to feel unwell or depressed

pull off—(1)Succeed in achieving despite difficulty(2)Remove from a surface

pull together—(1)Cause to cooperate(2)Collect one's thoughts; compose oneself

pull up—(1)Uproot(2)Admonish; reprimand

pump in—Invest heavily; introduce in large quantities

pump out—Produce in large quantities continuously

pump up—(1)Inflate(2)Energise; motivate

push aside—Disregard; thrust aside

push back—(1)Delay; postpone(2)Resist; repel

push through—Force acceptance; secure the passage of

push up—Increase; force upward

put across—Communicate successfully; convey clearly

put aside—(1)Ignore temporarily(2)Save for future use

put away—(1)Store; replace in proper position(2)Confine; imprison

put back—(1)Replace; restore to original position(2)Postpone

put by—Save; put aside for future use

put down—(1)Suppress; quell(2)Write; record(3)Humiliate; belittle(4)Attribute; ascribe

put forward—(1)Propose; suggest for consideration(2)Advance the time of

put in—(1)Submit; present formally(2)Install(3)Spend time on

put off—(1)Postpone; delay(2)Deter; discourage(3)Cause aversion in

put on—(1)Wear; don(2)Organise; stage(3)Pretend; feign(4)Gain in weight

put out—(1)Extinguish(2)Inconvenience; trouble(3)Publish; broadcast

put through—(1)Connect by telephone(2)Subject to; cause to undergo

put together—Assemble; compose; create

put up—(1)Erect; construct(2)Accommodate; lodge(3)Increase(4)Nominate; propose

R

rack up—Accumulate; amass; score

rattle off—Recite quickly and fluently; produce rapidly

read out—Read aloud; recite

rein in—Control; limit; restrain from excess

rope in—Persuade to help or participate; involve

rough out—Draft or sketch in outline; produce a preliminary version

round off—(1)Finish in a satisfying manner(2)Reduce to the nearest whole number

round up—(1)Gather; assemble(2)Arrest; detain(3)Increase to the nearest whole number

rule out—Exclude from consideration; make impossible

run through—(1)Rehearse; practise(2)Examine quickly(3)Use up; exhaust

run up—(1)Accumulate; cause to mount up(2)Raise; hoist a flag(3)Construct hastily

S

save up—Accumulate money; put aside for future use

scoop up—Gather quickly; pick up in one movement

seal off—Isolate; close to prevent access

seal up—Close tightly; make secure

send away—(1)Dismiss; dispatch to another place(2)Order by post

send back—Return; cause to return

send down—(1)Expel from a university(2)Imprison

send in—(1)Submit; dispatch formally(2)Deploy

send off—(1)Dispatch; post(2)Dismiss from a field of play

send out—(1)Dispatch; distribute(2)Emit; radiate

send up—(1)Parody; ridicule by imitation(2)Cause to rise

set aside—(1)Reserve for a special purpose(2)Disregard; overrule

set back—(1)Delay; impede progress(2)Cost a specified amount

set down—(1)Record in writing(2)State; establish as a rule

set off—(1)Trigger; cause to begin(2)Enhance by contrast

set up—(1)Establish; found(2)Install; arrange(3)Deceive; frame

shake off—(1)Rid oneself of(2)Escape from

shake out—(1)Empty by shaking(2)Reorganise; restructure

shake up—(1)Disturb; reorganise drastically(2)Upset; unsettle

shore up—Support; reinforce; strengthen from below

shrug off—Dismiss casually; remove by shrugging

shut down—Close permanently or temporarily; cease operations

shut in—Confine; enclose

shut off—(1)Stop the flow of; switch off(2)Isolate; separate

shut out—(1)Exclude; prevent entry(2)Block out; suppress

sign away—Transfer legally by signing

sign off—(1)End communication formally(2)Approve officially

sign up—Enlist; register; commit to

single out—Distinguish; select from a group for special treatment

sketch out—Outline briefly; describe in broad terms

skim off—Remove the best part from; take illegitimately

slim down—Reduce; make leaner or smaller

smooth over—Resolve; pacify; conceal a difficulty

snap up—Buy or take eagerly; seize quickly

sort out—(1)Resolve; settle(2)Organise; arrange(3)Separate; distinguish

spell out—Explain clearly and in full detail

spur on—Encourage; stimulate to greater effort

stamp out—Eliminate; suppress completely

stash away—Store secretly; hide away

stave off—Delay or prevent something unpleasant

stir up—(1)Incite; provoke(2)Cause trouble or strong emotion(3)Mix by stirring

straighten out—Resolve; make straight; reform

strip away—Remove; reveal what is beneath

strip down—Dismantle; reduce to essentials

sum up—Summarise; give a concise account of

summon up—Call forth; muster from within

sweep aside—Dismiss; brush aside as unimportant

sweep away—Remove completely; overwhelm with force

T

take apart—(1)Dismantle; disassemble(2)Criticise severely

take away—(1)Remove(2)Subtract

take back—(1)Retract; withdraw a statement(2)Return; restore(3)Remind of the past

take down—(1)Record in writing; note(2)Dismantle; demolish(3)Lower

take in—(1)Understand; absorb(2)Deceive(3)Include; accommodate(4)Give shelter to

take off—(1)Remove clothing(2)Mimic; impersonate

take on—(1)Employ; hire(2)Undertake; accept(3)Challenge; confront

take out—(1)Remove; extract(2)Obtain formally (a licence, insurance, etc.)

take over—Assume control of; replace

take up—(1)Begin a hobby or activity(2)Occupy space or time(3)Accept an offer(4)Shorten clothing

talk down—(1)Depreciate; minimise(2)Guide an aircraft to land by radio

talk into—Persuade to do something

talk out—Resolve by discussion

talk out of—Dissuade from

talk over—(1)Discuss; consider thoroughly(2)Persuade by talking

talk round—(1)Persuade; win over by discussion(2)Discuss without resolution

talk through—Explain fully; guide through step by step

talk up—Promote; speak in favour of; exaggerate the merits of

tear apart—(1)Rip into pieces(2)Criticise severely(3)Distress greatly

tear away—Remove with effort; force to leave

tear down—(1)Demolish; destroy(2)Disparage; denigrate

tear up—(1)Rip into pieces(2)Annul; cancel

tease out—Extract with effort; unravel; disentangle

tell apart—Distinguish between; differentiate

tell off—(1)Reprimand; scold(2)Count off

think out—Plan or work out carefully and thoroughly

think over—Deliberate upon; consider carefully

think through—Examine thoroughly and systematically

think up—Devise; invent

thrash out—Discuss thoroughly until resolved; reach by negotiation

tick off—(1)Mark off a list(2)Reprimand; scold(3)Annoy; irritate

tidy away—Put away; store
tidy up—Clean and arrange; make neat and orderly
tone down—Moderate; soften; make less extreme or harsh
track down—Find after a thorough search
trim down—Reduce; slim down; remove excess
tuck away—(1)Store in a safe place(2)Eat heartily
turn down—(1)Reject; refuse(2)Reduce the volume or intensity of
turn in—(1)Submit; hand over formally(2)Betray to the authorities
turn off—(1)Stop the flow of; switch off(2)Cause aversion in; repel
turn on—(1)Start the flow of; switch on(2)Attack suddenly(3)Arouse; excite
turn out—(1)Produce; create(2)Expel; evict(3)Extinguish
turn over—(1)Cause to change sides; overturn(2)Transfer; yield(3)Consider thoroughly
turn up—(1)Discover; find(2)Increase the volume or intensity of

U

use up—Exhaust the supply of; consume entirely

W

wake up—(1)Rouse from sleep(2)Make more alert or aware
ward off—Keep away; repel; protect against
water down—(1)Dilute(2)Weaken in force or effect
weed out—Eliminate the unwanted or inferior from a group
weigh up—Evaluate; consider carefully; assess pros and cons
whisk away—Remove suddenly and quickly; snatch away
whittle down—Reduce gradually; pare down
win back—Regain; recover something previously lost
win over—Gain the support or approval of; persuade
wind up—(1)Bring to a conclusion; end(2)Irritate; tease(3)Tighten by winding
wipe out—(1)Destroy completely(2)Exhaust completely(3)Erase
work off—(1)Remove by work or exercise(2)Repay by working
work out—(1)Calculate; solve(2)Plan; devise(3)Understand; decipher
work up—(1)Develop; bring gradually to a state(2)Excite; agitate
wrap up—(1)Cover; enclose(2)Conclude; complete

wring out—Squeeze moisture from; extract by effort
write down—(1)Record; note(2)Reduce the book value of
write off—(1)Cancel a debt(2)Dismiss as worthless(3)Damage beyond repair
write up—(1)Write in full and finished form(2)Record officially(3)Praise in a review

Section III

NON-SPLITTABLE MONO-OBJECT PHRASAL VERBS

Transitive phrasal verbs whose object must always follow the complete construction; the particle cannot be placed between verb and object.

A

- abide by**—Comply with; respect a rule, decision, or agreement
- account for**—(1)Explain; give a reason for(2)Form a proportion of; represent
- act for**—Represent; speak or act on behalf of
- act on**—Follow; be guided by; take action in accordance with
- act upon**—Affect; have an effect on
- adhere to**—Follow strictly; keep to; observe
- agree to**—Consent to; accept
- agree with**—(1)Concur with; share the opinion of(2)Suit; be in accordance with
- aim at**—(1)Target; direct towards(2)Intend; have as a purpose
- allow for**—Take into account; make provision for
- allude to**—Refer to indirectly; mention in passing
- amount to**—(1)Total; be equivalent in significance to(2)Result in; signify
- angle for**—Seek indirectly by hinting or manoeuvring
- appeal against**—Formally contest a decision or ruling
- appeal to**—(1)Make an earnest request to(2)Attract; be interesting to
- apply for**—Submit a formal request for
- apply to**—Be relevant or applicable to; concern
- arrive at**—Reach a conclusion, decision, or agreement
- aspire to**—Have a strong desire to achieve; aim for
- attend to**—Deal with; give attention to; see to
- attest to**—Bear witness to; provide evidence for
- avail oneself of**—Take advantage of; make use of an opportunity

B

- bail out of**—Withdraw from; abandon
- bargain for**—Expect; be prepared for

bask in—Enjoy the good feelings derived from attention or success

bear on—Relate to; be relevant to

bear out—Confirm; support; justify

bear with—Be patient with; tolerate

believe in—(1)Have faith in(2)Be convinced of the value or importance of

belong to—(1)Be the property of; be owned by(2)Be a member of

boil down to—Amount to; be reducible to the essential fact that

border on—Verge on; come close to being

bow to—Submit to; yield to; defer to

C

call for—(1)Require; demand; necessitate(2)Collect; pick someone up

call on—(1)Appeal to; urge(2)Visit briefly

capitalize on—Use a situation to one's advantage; profit from

care about—Be concerned with; attach importance to

care for—(1)Look after; nurse(2)Like; be fond of

cash in on—Exploit an advantage or opportunity

cater for—Provide for; meet the needs of

chip away at—Gradually reduce or erode

cling to—Hold tightly; adhere to; refuse to let go of

come across—(1)Find or meet by chance(2)Make a particular impression

come at—Attack; approach in a particular way

come between—Interfere with; divide; cause estrangement between

come by—Obtain; acquire; come to possess

come down with—Fall ill with a disease

come into—Inherit; enter into possession of

come of—Result from; originate in

come under—(1)Be subjected to(2)Be classified under

come up with—Produce an idea or solution; find; suggest

conceive of—Think of as possible; form an idea or concept of

conform to—Comply with; be in accordance with

cope with—Manage; deal with successfully

count against—Be a disadvantage or handicap to

count on—Rely on; depend on

crack down on—Suppress; take severe measures against

D

dawn on—Become clear to; be suddenly realised by

deal in—Trade in; be occupied with

deal with—(1)Handle; take appropriate action on(2)Be concerned with; relate to

decide against—Reject; choose not to

decide on—Choose; select

defer to—Yield to; submit out of respect

delight in—Take pleasure in; enjoy greatly

depart from—Behave in a way different from what is usual or expected

depend on—(1)Rely on; be contingent upon(2)Trust; confide in

descend into—Deteriorate into; lapse into a worse state

descend on—Arrive somewhere suddenly and in large numbers

despair of—Lose all hope of; give up on

detract from—Diminish the worth or quality of

develop into—Become; evolve into

differ from—Be unlike; be distinct from

differ with—Disagree with

dip into—(1)Sample; read parts of(2)Withdraw money from

disapprove of—Condemn; have an unfavourable opinion of

dispose of—(1)Get rid of; throw away(2)Deal with conclusively

distinguish between—Differentiate; perceive a difference between

dote on—Feel excessive or foolish affection for

draw on—(1)Make use of; draw upon a resource(2)Approach in time

dwell on—Linger over; give excessive attention to

E

embark on—Commence; begin a new venture or undertaking

emerge from—Come out of; result from

enlarge on—Elaborate upon; give more details about

enter into—(1)Begin; participate in formally(2)Engage in

expand on—Elaborate upon; give more detail about

F

face up to—Accept; deal with courageously

fall back on—Resort to as a final resource

fall for—(1)Be deceived by(2)Fall in love with

fall in with—(1)Agree to; accept(2)Begin to associate with

fall on—(1)Attack; fall upon(2)Devolve upon; be the responsibility of

fall to—Become the responsibility of; begin as a task

fend for—Take care of; provide for oneself

fend off—Defend against; ward off

flick through—Leaf through quickly; browse casually

flow from—Derive from; originate in; result from

focus on—Concentrate on; give particular attention to

frown on—Disapprove of; regard with disfavour

G

gain on—Draw closer to; reduce the distance from

gang up on—Unite to oppose or bully

get along with—(1)Have a friendly relationship with(2)Progress with

get around—(1)Bypass; evade; circumvent(2)Spread; become known

get at—(1)Mean; imply(2)Criticise repeatedly(3)Reach; access

get away with—Escape the consequences of; avoid punishment for

get back at—Retaliate against; take revenge on

get down to—Begin seriously; attend to

get into—(1)Become involved in(2)Develop an interest in

get off—(1)Escape punishment for(2)Begin; start on

get on with—(1)Continue with; progress with(2)Have a good relationship with

get out of—(1)Avoid; evade(2)Derive a benefit from(3)Escape from

get over—(1)Recover from(2)Communicate successfully(3)Overcome

get round—(1)Persuade; win over by charm(2)Evade; circumvent

get through—(1)Finish; complete(2)Contact by telephone(3)Endure; survive

get to—(1)Reach; arrive at(2)Affect; irritate

get up to—Engage in, especially mischief or unexpected activity

give in to—Yield to; succumb to

give up on—Lose faith in; abandon hope of

go against—Oppose; be contrary to; conflict with

go along with—(1)Agree to; accept without protest(2)Accompany

go back on—Break; fail to keep a promise or commitment

go for—(1)Favour; choose(2)Apply to; be relevant to

go in for—(1)Enjoy; practise regularly(2)Enter for a competition

go into—(1)Investigate; examine in detail(2)Enter; begin

go through—(1)Examine; search thoroughly(2)Endure; experience

go through with—Carry out; fulfil despite difficulty

go with—(1)Accompany; be together with(2)Match; suit

go without—Lack; manage without; do without

grapple with—Struggle to deal with; wrestle intellectually with

grow into—Develop gradually into; become with time

grow on—Become more liked or appreciated over time

grow out of—(1)Outgrow(2)Originate or develop from

guard against—Protect from; take precautions against

H

hang on to—Retain; keep possession of

harp on—Dwell on tediously; refer to repeatedly

head for—Go towards; be heading in the direction of

hide behind—Use as an excuse; take shelter in

hinge on—Depend on; turn on

hint at—Suggest indirectly; refer to in passing

hold against—Harbour resentment on account of; blame for

hold on to—Retain; keep a firm grasp on

hold to—Adhere to; keep to; remain faithful to

hope for—Desire; wish earnestly for

I

identify with—(1)Empathise with(2)Associate or connect closely with

impinge on—Have a strong, often negative, effect on

insist on—Demand firmly; persist in

interfere in—Meddle in; involve oneself unwantedly in

interfere with—(1)Disrupt; hinder(2)Tamper with; touch without authority

invest in—(1)Spend money on for future profit(2) Devote effort or resources to

J

jump at—Accept eagerly; seize with enthusiasm

K

keep at—Persist with; continue

keep from—(1)Refrain from(2)Prevent from doing

keep off—Avoid; not approach or use

keep to—(1)Adhere to(2)Confine to; restrict to

keep up with—(1)Maintain the same pace as(2)Stay informed about

L

lapse into—Fall back into; revert to an inferior or worse state

latch onto—Grasp; seize on an idea; attach closely to

launch into—Begin energetically; start with enthusiasm

lean on—(1)Depend on; rely on(2)Pressure; exert influence on

lean towards—Favour; have a tendency towards

level with—Be honest with; speak frankly to

listen in—Overhear; eavesdrop on a conversation

listen out for—Be attentive for; wait to hear

live by—Follow as a guiding principle

live down—Overcome the shame or embarrassment of

live for—Consider the most important thing; find the greatest purpose in

live off—Depend for sustenance or support on

live on—(1)Continue to exist; survive(2)Subsist on

live out—(1)Fulfil; realise in practice(2)Survive a period

live through—Endure; survive the experience of

live up to—Meet the expectations or standards of

live with—(1)Accept; come to terms with(2)Cohabit with

long for—Yearn for; desire deeply

look after—Care for; take responsibility for

look at—Examine; consider

look down on—Despise; regard with contempt as inferior

look for—Seek; search for

look forward to—Anticipate with pleasure

look into—Investigate; examine

look round—Explore; inspect; glance around

look to—(1)Rely on(2)Expect from

look up to—Admire; respect

loom over—Hang over threateningly; dominate in an oppressive way

M

matter to—Be of importance to

measure up to—Equal; meet the standard of; be adequate for

meddle in—Interfere; involve oneself without authority in

mitigate against—Work against; make less likely

miss out on—Fail to benefit from; lose the opportunity of

O

object to—Oppose; express disapproval of

occur to—Come to mind; be thought of by

operate on—Perform surgery on

opt for—Choose; select

opt out of—Choose not to participate in

own up to—Confess to; admit responsibility for

P

part with—Give up; surrender; be separated from

persist in—Continue stubbornly in

pertain to—Be connected with; be relevant to (formal)

pine for—Yearn for; grieve the absence of

pivot on—Depend on or develop from a central idea or point

play on—Exploit; take advantage of

plead for—Beg; make an earnest appeal for

plead with—Entreat; beg earnestly

point to—(1)Cite; refer to as evidence(2)Suggest; indicate

presume on—Take advantage of; rely on in an unreasonable way

prevail on—Persuade; induce

prevail over—Triumph over; be victorious over

proceed against—Take legal or formal action against

proceed from—Originate from; arise out of

proceed with—Continue with; go ahead with

profit by—Benefit from; draw a lesson from

profit from—Gain from; derive benefit from

provide for—(1)Support; maintain(2)Make adequate arrangements for

Q

qualify for—Meet the requirements for; be entitled to

quarrel with—Dispute; disagree with; find fault with

R

react against—Respond in opposition to; resist

react to—Respond to; be affected by

rebel against—Oppose authority; resist control

reckon on—Expect; count on

reckon with—(1)Consider; take into account(2)Deal with; contend with

reconcile to—Accept reluctantly; resign oneself to

reconcile with—Make consistent with; harmonise with

reflect on—(1)Think carefully about(2)Cast credit or discredit upon

refrain from—Abstain from; hold oneself back from

rely on—Depend on confidently; trust

remind of—Cause to remember; evoke the memory of

resort to—Have recourse to; adopt as a final measure

respond to—(1)Answer; react to(2)Be beneficially affected by

rest on—Depend on; be based on

rest with—Be the responsibility of; lie with

result from—Be caused by; arise from

result in—Lead to; cause

retire from—Leave; withdraw from; give up

revert to—Return to a previous state, condition, or practice

revolve around—Be centred on; orbit

ride on—Depend on; be contingent upon

ride out—Endure; survive without being destroyed

rise above—Overcome; not be adversely affected by

rise to—Respond adequately to a challenge or occasion

root for—Support; cheer on

root out—Eradicate; find and eliminate

S

sail through—Succeed easily; pass without difficulty

search for—Look for; seek

see about—Deal with; make arrangements for

see through—Detect the true nature of; support to the end

see to—Attend to; deal with; make sure of

seek out—Search for and find

seize on—Grasp eagerly; exploit an opportunity

set about—Begin; tackle in a particular way

settle for—Accept something less than ideal

settle on—Decide on; alight upon

settle up—Pay what is owed; clear a debt

shrink from—Avoid; recoil from; be reluctant to undertake

side with—Support; take the part of

sink into—(1)Become absorbed in; fall into a state(2) Penetrate; enter deeply

snap out of—Recover quickly from; force oneself out of a negative state

speak against—Oppose; argue in opposition to

speak for—(1)Represent; act as an advocate for(2) Support

speak of—Mention; indicate; testify to

speak out against—Protest publicly; oppose openly

spy on—Observe secretly; watch covertly

square up to—Face bravely; confront in a determined way

square with—Be consistent with; agree with; match

stand by—(1)Support loyally(2)Remain faithful to

stand for—(1)Represent; symbolise(2)Tolerate; endure

stand up for—Defend; support actively

stand up to—(1)Resist; confront bravely(2)Withstand without damage

steer clear of—Avoid; keep away from

stem from—Originate from; be caused by

strive for—Aim at; work towards

stumble across—Find unexpectedly; encounter by chance

stumble on—Discover by chance; find accidentally

subscribe to—(1)Agree with; accept(2)Pay for on a regular basis

succeed in—Achieve; accomplish

succeed to—Inherit; come into possession of by succession

suffer from—Be afflicted by; be disadvantaged by

sympathise with—Feel compassion for; share the feelings of

T

take after—Resemble; be like a relative

take issue with—Disagree with; challenge; dispute

take to—(1)Begin to like; become fond of(2)Resort to; adopt as a practice

tamper with—Interfere with; touch without authority; alter improperly

tap into—Access; draw on

testify to—Attest; bear witness to

thrive on—Prosper by means of; flourish from

tide over—Help through a difficult period

tire of—Become bored with; lose interest in

trifle with—Treat without proper seriousness; deal carelessly with

triumph over—Achieve victory over; overcome

trust in—Have faith in; rely on

tumble to—Understand suddenly; realise

V

veer towards—Shift to; change direction in favour of

verge on—Be very close to; border on

vie with—Compete strongly with; contend

vouch for—Guarantee the reliability or truth of

W

wade through—Read or work through something lengthy and difficult

wait on—(1)Serve; attend to the needs of(2)Await the outcome of

wait out—Endure patiently until the end of

wallow in—Indulge excessively in; spend time feeling

warm to—Become more enthusiastic about; develop a liking for

withdraw from—Pull out of; retire from

work against—Oppose; be a hindrance to

wrestle with—Struggle to deal with; grapple with

Y

yearn for—Long for; desire deeply

yield to—(1)Surrender; give way to(2)Produce or provide

Section IV

DUAL-OBJECT PHRASAL VERBS

These phrasal verbs take two arguments — typically a person and a thing.

A

apprise sb of sth—Inform someone formally of something

ascribe sth to sb/sth—(1)Consider something to have been created or spoken by a person(2)Consider something to be caused by

associate sth with sth—Connect or link one thing with another in the mind

attribute sth to sb/sth—(1)Consider something to have been created by a person(2)Consider something to be caused by a particular thing

awaken sb to sth—Make someone become aware of something and its significance

B

base sth on/upon sth—Use as the point or principle from which something develops

bind sb over—Place under a legal obligation to do or refrain from something

C

coax sb into sth—Persuade gently to do something

coax sth out of sb—Persuade gently to give or reveal something

D

dedicate sth to sb—Write, create, or devote something in honour of someone

devote sth to sth/sb—Give a large amount of time or energy to a particular purpose

dictate to sb—Give orders in an authoritarian way; expect unquestioning obedience

divest sb/sth of sth—Take something away from; deprive of (formal)

draft sb into sth—Bring someone in for a special task or purpose

I

imbue sb/sth with sth—Fill with a strong quality, feeling, or idea

impose sth on sb—Inflict something unwanted on someone; force upon

impress sth on/upon sb—Emphasise something strongly to someone; make clearly understood

inform sb of sth—Notify someone of; tell someone about formally

initiate sb into sth—Introduce someone to; induct formally into

instil sth into sb—Introduce gradually and persistently into the mind or character

invest sb/sth with sth—Endow with; give a quality, authority, or power to

P

pepper sb/sth with sth—Hit repeatedly with; include a large number of something in

put sb through sth—Subject someone to; cause someone to undergo

R

relieve sb of sth—(1)Take a burden from someone (2)Dismiss someone from a duty or post

remind sb of sth—Cause someone to remember; evoke in someone's mind

rid sb/sth of sth—Free from; remove from; clear of

rob sb of sth—Deprive someone of something; take away from

S

saddle sb with sth—Burden with an unwanted responsibility or task

sentence sb to sth—Condemn to a specified punishment

spare sb sth—Save someone from having to experience something

strip sb of sth—Deprive someone of; take away from by authority

supply sb with sth—Provide someone with; furnish with

suspect sb of sth—Believe guilty of; have reason to think responsible for

T

tide sb over—Help someone through a difficult period

trust sb with sth—Allow someone to be responsible for; entrust to

W

wean sb off sth—Help someone gradually stop depending on something

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Section V

PHRASAL VERBS USED ADJECTIVELY

These phrasal verb forms function as adjectives, appearing before a noun (attributive) or after a linking verb (predicative).

A

add-on—Additional; supplementary; extra

B

back-up—Reserve; kept in readiness as an alternative

beat-up—Worn; in poor condition through age or use

beaten-up—Battered; damaged; showing signs of hard use

beefed-up—Strengthened; enhanced; made more substantial

blocked-up—Clogged; obstructed; congested

broken-down—Not working; dilapidated; in a state of disrepair

built-in—Integral; included as a permanent part

built-up—(1)Developed; having many buildings(2)Accumulated; increased

bunged up—Congested; blocked, as of the nose

burnt-out—(1)Exhausted; depleted(2)Destroyed by fire; reduced to a shell

buttoned-up—Formal; restrained; emotionally guarded

C

cast-off—Discarded; rejected; no longer wanted

clued-in—Informed; aware; well acquainted with a subject

clued-up—Knowledgeable; well-informed

D

done for—Ruined; finished; facing certain failure

done in—Exhausted; very tired

downcast—Sad; dejected; dispirited

drawn-out—Prolonged; extended beyond what is necessary

dried-up—Desiccated; depleted; no longer productive

F

far-fetched—Unlikely; unconvincing; improbable

fold-away—Designed to be folded for compact storage

forthcoming—(1)Upcoming; about to happen(2)Ready to give information; open

G

grown-up—Adult; mature; not childish

H

hard-up—Short of money; in financial difficulty

hyped-up—(1)Excited; agitated(2)Exaggerated; promoted extravagantly

I

inbuilt—Inherent; integral; forming a permanent part from the beginning

incoming—(1)Arriving; coming in(2)Next in a sequence; about to assume a position

inward-looking—Focused on oneself or one's own group; introspective

J

joined-up—(1)Integrated; coordinated(2)Of handwriting; in which letters are connected

jumped-up—Arrogant; self-important; above one's station

L

laid-back—Relaxed; easygoing; not easily upset

left out—Feeling excluded or neglected; omitted

leftover—Remaining after the rest has been used or consumed

longed-for—Desired; eagerly awaited

M

made-up—(1)Invented; fabricated(2)Wearing cosmetics

messed up—(1)Disordered; in a state of confusion(2)Psychologically disturbed

mixed-up—(1)Confused; disordered(2)Emotionally troubled

O

off-putting—Repellent; disconcerting; causing aversion

oncoming—Approaching from the opposite direction; advancing

ongoing—Continuing; current; in progress

opted-out—Having chosen not to be under the control of local authority

outgoing—(1)Sociable; extroverted(2)Departing; leaving a position

outspoken—Frank; vocal; not afraid to express opinions

outstanding—(1)Excellent; exceptionally good(2)Unpaid; still to be settled(3)Unresolved; remaining

P

packed out—Completely full; crowded to capacity

paid-up—Having paid in full; having discharged a financial obligation

played out—(1)Exhausted; too weak to continue(2)No longer original or effective

R

run-down—(1)Dilapidated; in poor repair(2)Tired; lacking energy

S

sawn-off—Shortened by sawing, especially of a shotgun barrel

screwed-up—(1)Ruined; badly managed(2)Psychologically troubled; emotionally disturbed

set-aside—Reserved; designated for a particular purpose

shut-in—Confined; reclusive; unable to leave one's home

shut-off—Disconnected; closed; isolated

shut-out—Excluded; prevented from participating

snowed under—Overwhelmed with too much work or responsibility

souped-up—Enhanced; modified for greater power or performance

spaced out—Dazed; inattentive; disoriented

stand-alone—Independent; self-contained; not requiring external support

stressed-out—Suffering from excessive stress; mentally strained

T

teed off—Annoyed; irritated; displeased

ticked off—Annoyed; angry

tired out—Exhausted; completely spent

tooled up—Armed; equipped for a task

tumbledown—Dilapidated; crumbling; in a state of ruin

turned-up—Folded upward; facing upward

U

uncalled-for—Unnecessary; unjustified; inappropriate

uncared-for—Neglected; not looked after properly

undreamed-of—Unimaginable; beyond expectation; not thought possible

unheard-of—Unprecedented; unknown; never having occurred before

unlooked-for—Unexpected; unforeseen; not anticipated

upturned—Turned upward or over; overturned

W

washed out—(1)Faded in colour; lacking intensity(2)Cancelled due to rain(3)Exhausted

washed up—Finished; no longer successful; past one's best

watered down—(1)Diluted(2)Weakened in force or effect

well-off—Wealthy; in comfortable financial circumstances

well-thought-out—Carefully planned and considered

well-worn—Used so much as to be worn; hackneyed through overuse

worked up—Agitated; excited; in a state of anxiety or excitement

worn out—(1)Exhausted; completely spent(2)Used until no longer usable

Z

zoned out—Dazed; inattentive; mentally absent

zonked out—Exhausted; deeply asleep

Section VI

PHRASAL VERBS USED NOMINALLY

These phrasal verb forms function as nouns, serving as subject, object, or complement of a clause.

A

about - turn—A complete change of opinion, plan, or policy

add-on—An extra item or feature added to something already complete

B

back talk—Rude or disrespectful remarks made in reply to someone in authority

backup—(1)A copy of data kept for security(2)A person or thing held in reserve

bailout—An act of giving financial assistance to a failing business or institution

bawling-out—A severe scolding or reprimand

blackout—(1)A period when all lights are turned off(2)A temporary loss of consciousness or power

blast-off—The moment when a spacecraft or rocket leaves the ground

blow-out—(1)A sudden bursting of a tyre(2)A decisive victory(3)A large celebration

blow-up—(1)An enlargement of a photograph(2)A sudden outburst of anger(3)An explosion

botch-up—A badly done or organised piece of work; a bungled effort

break-in—An illegal forced entry into a building

break-up—The end of a relationship or association

breakaway—A withdrawal or separation from a group or organisation

breakdown—(1)A failure of a system, relationship, or mechanism(2)A loss of mental or physical health(3)An analysis of figures or items

breakout—A forcible escape, especially from prison

breakthrough—A sudden, important development, discovery, or achievement

build-up—(1)A gradual accumulation or increase(2)A period of preparation before an event

burnout—Physical or mental collapse caused by overwork or sustained stress

bust-up—(1)A serious quarrel or fight(2)The collapse of a relationship

buy-back—The repurchase of something, especially company shares

buy-out—The purchase of a controlling or entire interest in a company

bypass—(1)A road passing around a town or obstruction(2)A surgical procedure to redirect blood flow

bystander—A person present at an event without taking part; a spectator

C

call-in—A radio or television programme in which audience members telephone to participate

call-out—An instance of summoning someone for an emergency or professional service

call-up—An order to report for active military service

callback—A request for the return of a telephone call; a follow-up call

carry-on—(1)A small bag taken onto an aircraft as hand luggage(2)Disruptive or excited behaviour

carry-out—Food bought from a restaurant to be eaten elsewhere

carve-up—The division or distribution of something, often unfairly

cast-off—A discarded item, especially a piece of clothing

castaway—A person who has been shipwrecked and stranded

cave-in—The sudden collapse of a ceiling, wall, or tunnel

changeover—A change from one system, method, or activity to another

chat-up—A conversation intended to flirt with or attract someone

check-in—The act of registering at an airport, hotel, or event

check-up—A routine medical or dental examination

checkout—The place or process of paying for goods in a store

clampdown—A sudden, severe restriction on an activity

clawback—The recovery of money or benefits that have already been paid out

clean-out—A thorough cleaning or clearing of a place

clean-up—The act of making something clean, tidy, or orderly

clear-out—A process of removing unwanted items from a place

climbdown—An occasion when one abandons a position or admits one was wrong

close-down—The act of stopping work or operations, especially permanently

come-on—An action or gesture intended to attract or persuade someone

comeback—A return to former popularity, success, or activity

comedown—A situation that is worse or less good than a previous one

cop-out—An excuse or means of avoiding responsibility or difficulty

countdown—The act of counting backwards to zero before an important event

cover-up—An attempt to hide a mistake, crime, or embarrassing information

crack-up—A mental collapse or nervous breakdown

crackdown—Severe action taken to restrict or punish illegal or unwanted activities

crossover—(1)A change from one style, field, or form to another(2)A mixture of two types or styles

cut-off—A fixed point or limit at which something stops

cut-offs—Trousers that have been shortened by cutting off part of the legs

cut-out—(1)A shape cut out from a surface or material(2) A device that stops a flow or circuit

cutback—A reduction in something, especially to save money

D

downfall—Something that causes a person's or organisation's loss of power or ruin

drinking-down—An angry reprimand or severe scolding

drop-in—A casual visit; a person who visits without prior arrangement

drop-off—(1)A decline or decrease in amount, number, or quality(2)A place where passengers or goods are left

dropout—(1)A person who leaves school or college before finishing(2)A person who has abandoned conventional society

F

face-off—An argument or direct confrontation between two people or groups

fade-in—A gradual increase in visibility or audibility at the start of a scene

fade-out—A gradual decrease in visibility or audibility at the end of a scene

fall-off—A reduction or decline in amount, number, or quality

fallback—Something that can be used if a primary plan fails; a reserve

fallout—(1)The radioactive particles deposited after a nuclear explosion(2)The unpleasant consequences of an event

feedback—(1)Information about a performance used for improvement(2)A loud noise from an audio system

fill-up—An instance of filling something completely, especially a vehicle's fuel tank

flare-up—(1)A sudden outbreak or worsening of disease, pain, or conflict(2)A sudden burst of emotion

flashback—A scene in a story that interrupts to show an earlier event; a vivid memory

foldaway—Something designed to be folded for compact storage

follow-on—Something that follows or develops naturally from an earlier event

follow-through—The continuing of an action or plan to its completion

follow-up—A subsequent action or check to reinforce or assess an initial one

foul-up—A mistake or state of confusion that causes things to go wrong

freeze-out—The exclusion of someone from a group or activity

fry-up—A dish of various fried foods; a cooked breakfast

G

get-together—An informal social gathering

get-up—A style or outfit of clothing, especially an unusual one

getaway—(1)An escape, especially after a crime(2)A short holiday

giveaway—(1)Something that reveals information inadvertently(2)Something given free

go-ahead—Permission to proceed with a plan or project

going-over—A thorough cleaning, examination, or harsh criticism

goings-on—Activities or events, especially those considered surprising or improper

grown-up—An adult

H

handout—(1)Something given free to those in need(2) Printed information distributed to people

handover—The act of transferring power, control, or responsibility to another

hang-out—A place one frequently visits for relaxation or socialising

hideaway—A place where someone goes to be alone or to escape

hideout—A place where someone hides, especially from the authorities

hold-up—(1)A delay(2)A robbery carried out using a weapon

holdout—A person or organisation that refuses to agree or cooperate

holdover—A person or thing remaining from an earlier time

hook-up—A connection or link between electronic devices or systems

I

income—Money received, especially on a regular basis from work or investment

inlet—A small arm of the sea, a lake, or a river

input—(1)What is put in; a contribution of information or ideas(2)The signal fed into a device

inset—A small picture, map, or diagram inserted within a larger one

intake—(1)An amount taken in(2)A group of new entrants to an institution

K

kick-off—The start of a football game; the beginning of an event

kickback—A sum of money paid illegally in return for a favour

knock-back—A refusal or setback

knock-down—A blow that knocks someone to the ground; something sold cheaply

knock-off—An inferior copy of a branded product

knock-out—The act of rendering an opponent unconscious; a remarkable person or thing

knockabout—Rough, boisterous activity or comedy

L

lay-off—The dismissal of workers, typically due to a business slowdown

layabout—A person who does little or no work; an idle person

layout—The way in which the parts or elements of something are arranged

lead-in—An introduction or opening to a main subject or programme

lead-up—The period of time or series of events preceding an important event

leftover—Something, especially food, remaining after the rest has been used

let-down—A disappointment; a failure to meet expectations

let-out—An opportunity or excuse to escape from a difficult situation

let-up—A reduction in intensity; a pause

lie-down—A short rest taken lying on a bed or couch

lie-in—A period of remaining in bed later than usual

lift-off—The vertical take-off of a spacecraft or rocket

line-out—A restart in rugby where players line up to catch a thrown ball

line-up—The people or things assembled for a particular purpose

link-up—A connection or alliance between two parties

live-in—A partner or employee who lives in the same household

lock-in—An event where people remain inside a venue after regular closing time

lock-up—(1)A jail or cell(2)A garage or storage room that can be locked

lockout—The exclusion of workers from their workplace by an employer during a dispute

lookout—(1)A person keeping watch for danger(2)A high place offering a wide view

M

make-up—(1)Cosmetics applied to the face(2)The composition or constitution of something

makeover—A complete transformation of appearance or image

mark-up—(1)An increase in price above cost(2)The process of annotating a text

markdown—A reduction in price

meltdown—(1)A disastrous collapse or failure(2)A severe overheating of a nuclear reactor

mix-up—A confusion of one thing with another; a muddle

mock-up—A model or replica made for study, testing, or display

O

offcut—A piece of material left over after cutting a larger piece

onlooker—A person who watches something happening without being involved

opt-out—An instance of choosing not to participate in a system or agreement

outbreak—A sudden start or occurrence of something unpleasant, such as war or disease

outburst—A sudden, strong expression of emotion, especially anger

outcast—A person who is rejected or excluded from a group or society

outcome—The result or effect of an action, situation, or event

outcry—A strong public expression of anger or disapproval

outlay—An amount of money spent on something

outlet—(1)A means of releasing energy, emotion, or expression(2)A shop or store selling goods

outline—(1)A line showing the outer edge of something(2)A general plan or summary

outlook—(1)A person's point of view or attitude(2)The likely future situation

outpouring—A strong, sudden expression of feeling

output—(1)The amount of something produced(2)Information produced by a computer or system

outreach—The activity of providing services or information to people in the community

outset—The start or beginning of something

overspill—Something that spills over or exceeds limits; a surplus population

P

passer-by—A person who is walking past something, especially by chance

patch-up—(1)A repair or temporary fix(2)A reconciliation after a quarrel

pay-off—(1)A payment made to someone, often as a bribe(2)The benefit or reward from an action

payback—(1)A return on investment(2)An act of revenge or retaliation

payout—A large payment of money, especially from insurance or investment

phone-in—A radio or television programme in which the public participates by telephone

pick-me-up—Something that makes one feel better or more energetic

pick-up—(1)An improvement(2)A small truck(3)An instance of collecting someone or something

pile-up—(1)A crash involving several vehicles(2)An accumulation of work or material

pin-up—A picture of an attractive person intended for display

play-off—An extra game or series played to decide a tied contest

playback—The act of playing back recorded sound or video

plug-in—A software component that adds features to an existing programme

pop-up—Something that appears suddenly, such as a window on a screen or a temporary event

printout—A page of printed material produced by a computer

pull-down—A list of options on a computer screen that appears when a menu is opened

pull-in—A roadside stopping place or café

pull-out—(1)The act of withdrawing from a commitment(2)A removable section of a magazine

pull-up—An exercise in which one raises one's body by the arms

pushover—(1)A person who is easy to influence or defeat(2)Something easy to do or achieve

put-down—A remark intended to make someone feel stupid or unimportant

put-on—An attempt to deceive someone; a pretence

R

read-out—A display or spoken presentation of information, often electronic

rip-off—Something that is unreasonably expensive; a swindle

roll-out—The official launch or introduction of a new product or service

roll-over—(1)The renewal or extension of a financial agreement(2)A type of vehicle accident

roll-up—A cigarette made by rolling tobacco by hand

rollback—A reduction or return to a previous condition or price level

round-off—An act of finishing something in a satisfying or conclusive way

round-up—(1)A summary of information or news(2)The gathering together of people or animals

rub-down—An act of drying, cleaning, or massaging with a cloth or the hands

run-in—(1)An argument or dispute(2)A period of preparation before an event

run-off—(1)An extra race or contest to decide a winner(2) Water flowing over the surface of land

run-on—Something that continues without a planned break or pause

run-through—(1)A rehearsal or practice performance(2) A quick explanation or summary

run-up—(1)The period before an important event(2)An approach run in athletics

runabout—A small, light car or boat used for short journeys

runaround—Deceptive or evasive treatment

runaway—(1)A person who has run away from home or authority(2)Something out of control

rundown—(1)A brief summary or report(2)A state of poor health or disrepair

S

screw-up—A serious mistake or instance of mismanagement

sell-off—A sale of assets, often quickly and at low prices

sell-out—(1)An event for which all tickets are sold(2)A betrayal of principles or trust

send-off—(1)A demonstration of goodwill at someone's departure(2)A funeral

send-up—An imitation or parody of someone or something

sending-off—The dismissal of a player from the field of play in sport

set-to—A brief, fierce argument or fight

set-up—The way something is organised or arranged

setback—A problem that delays or reverses progress

shake-down—(1)A thorough search(2)A period of testing and adjustment

shake-out—A process by which weaker participants are eliminated from a market

shake-up—A major reorganisation or change in personnel

show-off—A person who behaves ostentatiously to attract attention

shut-in—A person confined to their home, especially due to illness

shut-off—(1)A device that stops the flow of something (2)An act of stopping a supply

shut-out—A game in which one team prevents the other from scoring

shutdown—The closing of a factory, system, or operation

sign-in—The process of recording one's arrival by signing a register

sign-out—The process of recording one's departure by signing a register

sign-up—The action of enrolling or registering for something

sing-along—An informal occasion when people sing together

sit-down—(1)A protest in which people refuse to leave a place(2)A meal eaten sitting at a table

sit-in—A protest in which people occupy a place and refuse to leave

sit-up—An exercise to strengthen the abdominal muscles

sleep-over—An occasion of spending the night at someone else's home

slip-on—A shoe that is put on without fastening

slip-up—A minor or careless mistake

slowdown—A reduction in speed or activity

snarl-up—A state of confusion or disorder, especially a traffic jam

sort-out—An act of organising or tidying something; a dispute

spillover—The effects of an activity that spread into other areas or domains

spin-off—A product, business, or series derived from an existing one

splashdown—The landing of a spacecraft in the sea

stake-out—A period of secret surveillance by the police

stand-in—A person who takes the place of another temporarily

stand-up—(1)A comedian who performs alone on a stage (2)A meeting held standing

standby—(1)A state of readiness(2)A person or thing kept ready for use if needed

stop-off—A short stop during a longer journey

stopover—A short stay in a place during a longer journey

stowaway—A person who hides on a vehicle to travel without paying

summing-up—A summary of main points, especially by a judge at the end of a trial

swearing-in—A ceremony in which someone takes an oath of office

T

take-off—(1)The moment an aircraft leaves the ground (2)An imitation or caricature

take-out—Food bought from a restaurant to be eaten elsewhere

takeaway—(1)A key point or lesson to be remembered(2) Food bought to be eaten elsewhere

takeover—An act of gaining control of something, especially a company

talking-to—A lengthy or serious reprimand

tearaway—A young person who behaves in a wild or reckless manner

telling-off—An act of scolding or reprimanding someone

throughput—The amount of material or items processed in a given period

throw-in—The act of throwing the ball back into play from the sideline

throwaway—(1)Something designed to be discarded after use(2)A casual or offhand remark

throwback—A person or thing that resembles an earlier type or period

tie-in—A connection or association between two things; a related product

tie-up—(1)A connection or business association(2)A stoppage or delay

tip-off—A piece of confidential information or a warning given in advance

top-up—An addition needed to restore something to its former level

toss-up—A situation in which two outcomes are equally likely

touchdown—(1)The moment an aircraft lands(2)A scoring play in American football

trade-in—A used item given as part payment for a new one

trade-off—A balance struck between two opposing or equally desirable outcomes

try-on—(1)An act of trying on clothes(2)An attempt to deceive

try-out—A test of performance or suitability

turn-off—Something that causes a loss of interest or enthusiasm

turn-on—Something that causes interest or excitement

turn-up—(1)An unexpected event or occurrence(2)The folded-up end of a trouser leg

turnabout—A sudden and complete change of direction or opinion

turnaround—A complete change from a bad situation to a good one

turnout—The number of people attending or voting at an event

turnover—(1)The amount of business done in a given period(2)The rate of staff replacement

U

upbringing—The manner in which a child is raised and educated

upkeep—The process and cost of keeping something in good condition

upsurge—A sudden and large increase

uptake—The rate or act of taking in, absorbing, or accepting something

upturn—An improvement or increase, especially in economic conditions

W

wake-up—An event or experience that causes someone to realise something important

walk-in—(1)A person who arrives without an appointment(2)A large storage room or cupboard

walk-through—(1)A rehearsal or practice(2)A set of step-by-step instructions

walkout—A strike; a sudden departure from a meeting as a protest

walkover—An easy victory

warm-up—(1)Exercises done to prepare for physical activity(2)A period of preparation

washing-up—The act of washing dishes and utensils after a meal

washout—An event that fails completely or is cancelled due to rain

weigh-in—An official weighing of an athlete before a competition

wind-up—(1)The act of concluding something(2)An attempt to provoke or tease someone

winding-up—The process of closing down a business

wipe-out—Complete destruction or defeat

workout—A session of physical exercise

wrap-up—A final summary or conclusion

write-down—A reduction in the recorded value of an asset

write-in—A vote cast for an unlisted candidate written on a ballot

write-off—(1)A vehicle too damaged to repair(2)A cancelled debt(3)Someone dismissed as useless

write-up—A written report or review

Z

zip-up—A garment or fastener that closes with a zip

Tousif Rehman Shah

Section VII

PHRASAL VERBS USED IDIOMATICALLY

Fixed expressions of established currency in educated English whose total meaning cannot be derived literally from their constituent parts.

A

A get-up-and-go—Energetic enthusiasm and initiative to get things done

A put-up job—Something arranged dishonestly or fraudulently; a setup

As one goes along—Without prior planning; deciding or learning progressively during an activity

C

Can't be doing with someone/something—To have no tolerance or patience for someone or something

Come off it!—An exclamation of disbelief, telling someone to stop being ridiculous or insincere

Come to think of it—A phrase used when one suddenly remembers or considers something new in conversation

Could do with something—To want or need something; to benefit from having it

D

Dream on!—A sarcastic expression meaning that what is hoped for is very unlikely to happen

F

Fools rush in where angels fear to tread—Inexperienced or foolish people act in situations that wise people avoid

G

Get off my back!—A forceful request for someone to stop criticising, nagging, or pressuring one

Go down that road—To choose or embark on a particular course of action, often one with negative consequences

L

Let's give it up for someone—An exhortation to applaud or show appreciation for someone

N

Not to be sniffed at—Not to be dismissed or considered unimportant; worthy of serious consideration

O

One's heart goes out to someone—To feel great sympathy or compassion for someone

S

Shape up or ship out—Improve one's performance or behaviour, or leave or be dismissed

T

The jury is still out on something—No decision or verdict has been reached; something remains undecided or uncertain

The rot set in—The point at which a situation began to deteriorate or decline

There's no accounting for tastes—People's personal preferences are often inexplicable and cannot be judged by others

There's no getting away from something—It is impossible to deny or avoid a particular fact or truth

To batten down the hatches—To prepare oneself or an organisation for a period of difficulty or crisis

To be bound up in something—To be deeply involved in or closely connected to something

To be bound up with something—To be closely connected or associated with something else

To be enough to be going on with—To be a sufficient amount for the present time

To be etched on one's memory—To be unforgettable; permanently fixed in one's memory

To be falling apart at the seams—To be in a very bad or deteriorating condition and likely to fail

To be getting on towards—To be approaching a particular time, age, or amount

To be puffed up with pride—To be feeling very proud and pleased with oneself, often arrogantly

To be sitting on a gold mine—To possess something very valuable, often without fully realising it

To be sunk in something—To be deeply involved in or absorbed by a particular state or condition

To bend over backwards to do something—To try extremely hard to help or please someone

To bite off more than one can chew—To take on a task that is beyond one's ability or resources

- To bite someone's head off**—To respond to someone with sudden and excessive anger
- To blow someone's socks off**—To greatly impress or astonish someone
- To bring down the curtain on something**—To mark the end of something; to bring something to a close
- To bring the house down**—To make an audience laugh or applaud with great enthusiasm
- To buck one's ideas up**—To start behaving more responsibly, positively, or effectively
- To chalk it up to experience**—To accept a failure or misfortune as a lesson for the future
- To clean up one's act**—To improve one's behaviour or performance
- To clutch at straws**—To try desperate and unlikely means in a difficult situation
- To come back down to earth**—To return to reality after a period of excitement or false hope
- To come in handy**—To prove useful or convenient
- To come into line**—To conform or agree with a standard, rule, or other people's expectations
- To come into one's own**—To become very effective or successful by fully using one's talents
- To come on strong**—To behave in a very forceful, assertive, or intensely amorous manner
- To come out of oneself**—To become less shy and more confident in social situations
- To come up smelling of roses**—To emerge from a difficult situation with one's reputation untarnished
- To cut someone down to size**—To make someone realise they are not as important or capable as they believe
- To dig deep into one's pockets**—To spend a significant amount of one's own money
- To dig one's heels in**—To refuse stubbornly to change one's mind or course of action
- To dip into one's savings**—To use some of one's money, especially savings, for a particular purpose
- To dish it out**—To criticise or punish others harshly or freely
- To fall over oneself to do something**—To be extremely eager to do something, often to please another
- To fly off the handle**—To become suddenly very angry
- To get a word in edgeways**—To manage to say something in a conversation dominated by others
- To get ahead of oneself**—To plan or become excited about something before it is appropriate or certain
- To get away from it all**—To take a holiday to escape one's usual routine or pressures
- To get beyond a joke**—To become too serious or annoying to be treated as a laughing matter
- To get in on the act**—To become involved in an activity that others are finding profitable or enjoyable
- To get off on the right/wrong foot**—To start a relationship or project well or badly
- To get off to a flying start**—To begin something very successfully
- To get one's act together**—To organise oneself to do things more effectively
- To get someone's back up**—To annoy or irritate someone
- To get something off the ground**—To start a project or venture successfully
- To get something out of one's system**—To do something so that one no longer has a strong desire for it
- To get up speed**—To increase one's speed or momentum
- To give the game away**—To reveal a secret or trick, usually unintentionally
- To go against the grain**—To be contrary to one's natural inclinations or principles
- To go at it hammer and tongs**—To do something with great vigour, especially arguing or fighting
- To go down the drain**—To be wasted or lost; to deteriorate irretrievably
- To go out like a light**—To fall asleep or become unconscious very quickly
- To go round the bend**—To become very confused, annoyed, or mentally unbalanced
- To go through the motions**—To do something in a mechanical way without enthusiasm or conviction
- To go through the roof**—(1)To rise to a very high level(2)To become very angry
- To go to one's head**—Of success or alcohol: to make someone conceited or dizzy
- To go to pieces**—To become so upset or nervous that one cannot function normally
- To go to pot**—To deteriorate; to become ruined through neglect
- To go to the dogs**—To deteriorate very badly in quality or character
- To go to the wall**—(1)Of a business: to fail(2)To be defeated or sacrificed
- To go to town on something**—To do something with great energy and thoroughness

To hang in there—To persist or endure in a difficult situation

To have a lot going for one—To have many advantages or positive qualities

To have one's head screwed on—To be sensible, practical, and level-headed

To keep an eye on something—To watch or monitor someone or something carefully

To keep one's chin up—To remain cheerful or optimistic in difficult circumstances

To keep one's hair on—To remain calm and not become angry

To keep one's hand in—To practise a skill occasionally so as not to lose it

To keep one's head down—To avoid attention or trouble; to work hard without distraction

To keep up appearances—To maintain an outward show of prosperity or well-being despite difficulties

To kick up a fuss/stink—To complain loudly and angrily about something

To knock someone down with a feather—To be extremely surprised or astonished

To knock the stuffing out of someone—To make someone feel weak, shocked, or thoroughly defeated

To lay something on thick—To exaggerate praise, flattery, or emotion excessively

To leave someone to their own devices—To leave someone alone to do as they wish without interference

To let off steam—To release pent-up energy or strong feelings

To let one's hair down—To behave in a relaxed, uninhibited way, especially after being formal

To let someone off the hook—To allow someone to escape from blame, punishment, or obligation

To let something slip through one's fingers—To fail to take advantage of an opportunity

To let the cat out of the bag—To reveal a secret, usually unintentionally

To let the side down—To disappoint one's group, team, or family by failing to meet expected standards

To live by one's wits—To survive by using intelligence and cunning, often without a regular income

To live off the fat of the land—To live in luxury, enjoying the best of everything

To live off the land—To survive by eating food one can grow, gather, or hunt

To look for trouble—To behave in a way that is likely to provoke problems or conflict

To make up one's mind—To decide between alternatives; to come to a decision

To never look back—To continue to be successful after a change or new start

To not take kindly to something—To be displeased or offended by something

To paper over the cracks—To hide problems or disagreements temporarily instead of solving them

To pick up speed/momentum—To begin to move or progress more quickly

To pick up the pieces—To try to return to a normal state after a disaster or serious upset

To pile on the agony—To exaggerate the unpleasant aspects of a situation

To prey on someone's mind—To cause someone persistent anxiety or worry

To pull one's socks up—To make an effort to improve one's performance or behaviour

To pull oneself up by one's bootstraps—To improve one's situation by one's own efforts, without help

To put in an appearance—To attend an event briefly, especially out of duty

To put one across someone—To deceive or trick someone

To put one's foot down—To assert one's authority and insist firmly on something

To put one's head down—To start working hard and with concentration

To put oneself in someone else's shoes—To imagine oneself in another person's situation

To put someone in the picture—To inform someone fully about a situation

To put someone in their place—To humble someone who is being presumptuous or arrogant

To put someone on the spot—To place someone in a situation where they must answer a difficult question

To put someone through their paces—To test someone's abilities thoroughly

To put the clock back—To return to past conditions or methods; to reverse progress

To reflect great credit on someone—To bring praise or honour to someone

To roll out the red carpet for someone—To give someone a lavish welcome or special treatment

To rub someone's nose in it—To remind someone unkindly and repeatedly of a mistake or failure

To run out of steam—To lose energy, enthusiasm, or momentum

To screw up one's courage—To force oneself to be brave enough to do something frightening

To sit on the fence—To avoid making a decision or committing to one side in a dispute

To slip through the net—To escape from or be missed by a system of controls or checks

To speak for oneself—To express one's own opinion; used to indicate that one's view may not be shared

To stand out like a sore thumb—To be very obvious or conspicuous due to being different from one's surroundings

To stick one's neck out—To take a risk by acting or speaking in a way that could invite criticism

To stick to one's guns—To refuse to change one's mind or give in, despite pressure or opposition

To stir up a hornet's nest—To cause a great deal of trouble or anger by interfering in a sensitive situation

To sweep someone off their feet—To cause someone to fall suddenly and completely in love

To take a leaf out of someone's book—To imitate someone or follow their example

To take one's hat off to someone—To express admiration or respect for someone's achievement

To take one's mind off something—To distract oneself from worrying or thinking about something

To take someone's breath away—To astonish or impress someone greatly

To take something lying down—To accept an insult or bad treatment without complaining or resisting

To take to one's heels—To run away

To take years off someone—To make someone look or feel much younger

To talk one's way out of something—To avoid having to do something by giving clever excuses

To tear one's hair out—To be extremely anxious, frustrated, or worried

To think better of doing something—To decide against a previously considered course of action

To think nothing of doing something—To consider something as easy, normal, or unremarkable

To think the world of someone—To have a very high opinion of someone; to be very fond of them

To think twice about doing something—To consider carefully before deciding; to hesitate

To throw down the gauntlet—To issue a challenge

To throw in one's hand—To give up; to concede defeat

To throw in one's lot with someone—To decide to join and share the fate of a person or group

To throw in the towel—To admit defeat; to give up a struggle

To throw light on something—To provide clarification that makes something easier to understand

To throw money at something—To attempt to solve a problem by spending heavily, often without careful thought

To throw one's weight around—To use one's authority or influence in an aggressive or bullying way

To throw oneself on someone's mercy—To plead for leniency or forgiveness

To throw someone in at the deep end—To put someone into a difficult situation without adequate preparation

To throw someone off balance—To surprise or confuse someone, making them uncertain

To throw someone off the scent—To mislead someone who is trying to find or discover something

To throw something into sharp relief—To make something very clear or prominent by contrast

To throw the book at someone—To punish or reprimand someone as severely as possible

To turn on the charm—To deliberately behave in a charming and engaging way to influence someone

To turn over a new leaf—To start behaving in a better or more virtuous way; to reform

To turn the clock back—To return to past conditions or methods; to reverse progress

To turn up trumps—To succeed beyond expectations; to provide exactly what is needed

To wake up to something—To become aware of or realise something important

Two can play at that game—A warning that one can retaliate by using the same methods as an opponent

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What goes around comes around—The consequences of one's actions will eventually return to affect oneself

What has got into someone?—An expression of surprise at someone's unusual or uncharacteristic behaviour

What's up?—A casual greeting asking what is happening or whether something is wrong

When it comes to something—Regarding or in the matter of a particular thing

Where someone is coming from—The perspective, background, or motivation underlying someone's actions

Would you care for something?—A polite way to offer something to someone

Tousif Rehman Shah

